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Executive Registry

78-3649

ILLEGIB

22 November 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

FROM: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Project on Soviet Defense Budget

1. [REDACTED] has a project about the Soviet defense budget he would like to have us check. Basically, his thesis is that until about 1965 the Soviet defense budget was steady with adjustments only for inflation, but from there on it was not only adjusted for inflation but the rate of growth of GNP of the Soviet Union. He thinks this can explain the phenomenon we have been uncovering recently of the growth in the Soviet budget and that perhaps we can identify when, by whom, and how the decision was made to give it this additional emphasis.

2. I told him I'd ask you to work with him to get the argument he has developed so that we can try it on the military economists. You may want to either turn it over to [REDACTED] or take him with you on the assumption that [REDACTED] knows [REDACTED]. I think [REDACTED] wanted to make sure that whoever is the intermediary here really does understand the question. He may well have that confidence in [REDACTED] as well as yourself.

[REDACTED]
STANSFIELD TURNER

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